

# Eating Seems to Be the Pastime in the Philippines

(Editor's Note: Barbara Moffitt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Moffitt, is in the Philippines participating in the American Field Service Americans Abroad program this summer. Barbara has recorded some of her impressions of the Philippines, its life and people, for Press-Herald readers. She will return in September to Torrance High School, where she will be a senior.)



landed in Honolulu because it was only an hour stop. Anyway, the airport was simply delightful and since we were unchaperoned, we spent most of our time debating as to whether or not we should just skip the plane and spend the summer on Waikiki! I'm glad we decided to be good kids though, 'cause it's been great! From Honolulu on (since we all knew each other really well) it was a BIG party. The Filipinos on board were really nice (and patient) and we all got to go up and spend time talking to the pilot and looking at all his instruments. Wow! what a set up! I also met a fellow named Angelo Davden who was the flight engineer. His sister is Marlene Davden, the most popular Tagalog actress of this country. Everyone was impressed in Manila when I showed them our picture.

We landed in Manila at 6:45 Sunday morning. To me it was afternoon though both because of my mixed-up time schedule and the warmth. I would say however, that the Philippines isn't that much warmer than Los Angeles. It is wetter but I don't find it particularly uncomfortable. As a matter of fact, the Filipinos complain more than I do!

At the airport we met our Manila host families. Mine was so wonderful I almost cried when I had to leave them. It's really quite surprising how many Filipinos are (at least) college educated. That could be due to the fact that I am not associating with the lower, poorer classes, but I doubt it. Mama Litonjua (Manila mama) said it is exceedingly difficult for one to find a job as menial as a bus boy without a high school diploma.

The Litonjuas drove me through Manila that morning. The traffic is absolutely unbelievable! There does not seem to be such a thing as lanes or stop signs and driving on the wrong side of the street is quite common. Going to my Manila home, I didn't think I could even survive a summer of honking cars (they use their horns quite freely). Most striking were the "jeeps" which are reconverted army jeeps. They decorate them quite beautifully, I

imagine to make one forget their origin. The jeepney is the main mode of transportation, especially for women and helpless AFSers who would go crazy if they even dared to drive in Manila (or even in the rural provinces for that matter!).

The Litonjuas were very good to me. I mentioned before Filipino hospitality... you can't imagine how affectionate and friendly they are! Their main means of showing affection is by feeding you until you burst. I ate seven meals Sunday! Two on the plane (snack and breakfast) the breakfast, brunch, lunch, and merienda at Litonjuas' cousin where we all ate again and then to another dinner for the AFSers, Monday and Tuesday were much the same and as I am writing this I have already had three meals and declined one. (Four meals in all and it is only 2 o'clock.) I learned early to say "Pusog na ako" (I am full).

The Filipinos are a party people. Parties for baptisms, birthdays, etc. Yesterday I attended the birthday party of a 2-year-old friend. Today relatives from Manila are here for the day.

One difficult adjustment to make is getting used to the servants. Everyone has servants to do the work. The Litonjuas had five and the Abceces (as many as I have counted so far) have three. They do everything for you. It's a pretty good deal.

Papa Litonjua is a repairman. My gold earring broke in San Francisco and Aunt Mary and I went all over to get it fixed. When I got to Manila he had it fixed for me in 10 minutes. My nylons had runners all over them when I got to Manila, too. Mama Litonjua sent out and had them mended as good as new. That shocked me as much as she was shocked at the idea of throwing them out!

The Litonjuas took me on a tour of Manila the other night. It's a pretty grubby city all over, but different. We went to Luneta, a park built by the wife of President Marcos where the great monument to Rizal stands. The park itself is gorgeous and the tropical night made everything quite exquisite! It has piped music and a flower clock that they say is there to mind all the lovers that it is time to leave. It also has beautiful colored fountains that

are very refreshing when the winds blows in your direction!

Mass was an experience! First of all, the church was the biggest I've ever seen (it was just a parish church, too!) Still, many had to stand (including me). The priest faced the people and everyone (especially the men) sang enthusiastically. It was really interesting to watch the fans in the church. Everyone was fanning himself vigorously and it looked like millions of moths preparing to take off! At Consecration the "moths" stopped abruptly and it looked so unique when they started up even more abruptly afterwards!

I must tell you about the food! It is so different. My last night in Manila my family wanted to especially treat me so we bought Balut which is duck embryo still in the shell! You crack it open and eat head, feathers and everything! Bad to look at—but delicious! The food in Lucena is much better because there is lots of fish here. In Manila, cold fried eggs were common as was a dish which combined corn and coconuts into a mush. Bananas and pineapple and

oranges here are the greatest! There is a type of banana which is sweeter than our bananas and smaller—and so good! As you can see... I've been eating a lot since I've been here. It's a small world! The brother-in-law of Mr. Litonjua (Charles Benitez) lives on 230th Street in Torrance! We didn't even know that until we started talking about California.

Now I shall tell you about the Abceces. They came to get me in Manila Tuesday and today is Thursday yet I feel already like one of them! Their home is on the outskirts of Lucena. Lucena is somewhat like Manila, except the dirt is cleaner and it is not so terribly crowded. It's pretty large, however, and does not resemble any of the farm towns one sees south of Manila. My first night I was greeted by a black-out. Quite common occurrences here in the summer when there isn't enough water to generate electricity. Pretty exciting!

Right outside my window Junior (age 23) keeps his 100 chickens. When I awoke at 5 the first morning I thought the world was ending or something because of

the ungodly racket! I had never seen anything like it! I escaped having to hear that this morning though because Thelma (18) and I and Kuya (means brother) Dennis and Ate (his "wife") Dulce caught the bus at 4 a.m. to Manila.

You can't believe how bumpy that three-hour ride was; Every stone and hole in the road shook the bus (and me) so that I looked like a washing machine agitator! Now I'm at Kuya Dennis' house in Manila. Thelma said I can go see Sheldon tonight if I want. I don't know what to do!

Now I am at the home of some other people in Manila. Dennis didn't have room which is o.k. 'cause this place has running water and Dennis' doesn't. I don't get to see Sheldon after all because Thelma, Genia (cousin) and I went out to eat and were out too late and had to get home before the black-out at 9:30. Oh, well. I'm sure it matters!

And now that I am coming to the close of this literary masterpiece... save it and show it to my friends. It took three days to write and I really doubt that I'll be able to do it again! Love,

Mabuhay! Gee, there's just so much to tell!

At this moment I am sitting in the Abceces' living room. A Lucena AFSer who is going to Norris, Tenn., is visiting. I am so excited for him because of all the fun I've had already! I told him about our stimulating 14-hour plane trip from San Francisco. It was on that trip that I got my first taste of Philippine hospitality. They were feeding us constantly! As a matter of fact, all I've been doing since San Francisco is eating.

The group of us had 10 boys and 9 girls from all over the United States. Only two were from California (Dan Young from Santa Ana was the other). I was very frustrated when we

## Obituaries

### George McCoy

Services will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. at the Stone and Myers Mortuary Chapel for George W. McCoy, 78, who died Friday after living in the Torrance area for 26 years.

Formerly of 1013 W. 204th St., he is survived by his widow, Dora of Torrance; a son, Howard C. of Gardena; a daughter, Essie of Long Beach; four grandchildren, one great grandchild, two sisters, and two brothers. Interment will be at Roosevelt Memorial Par.

### Frank M. George

Private services were held at Stone and Myers Mortu-

ary Chapel last week for Frank Marion George, 56, who died June 29 after living in the Torrance area for five years.

He lived at 22405 Kent Ave. Mr. George is survived by a daughter, Sandra L. George of Los Gatos; a son, Gerald G. of the U.S. Army, Korea; and a brother, Joe of Pennsylvania.

### Ruth Sherwood

Service were held yesterday at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary Chapel for Ruth Sherwood, 84, who died Wednesday after living in the Torrance area for 70 years.

Born July 19, 1884, in

Kansas, she is survived by her husband, Austin of Harbor City; three daughters, Kathryn Tuck of Huntington Beach, Elaine Hall of Torrance, and Viola Boutin of Long Beach; a sister, Ruby Cooper of Gardena; a brother, Robert Rockwell of Long Beach; and one grandson.

### Army Contract

Northrop Corp. has been awarded initial funding of \$5,487,544 toward an \$11 million program to produce flight safety warning systems for the U.S. Army's OV-1 aircraft and CH-47 and CH-54 helicopters.

## ... Building

(Continued from Page 1) forced in the city and the more stringent standards are expected to push building costs higher.

McKinnon, in a mid-June interview with the Press-Herald, noted many builders had filed plans with the city in order to meet a June 10 deadline for repeal of the city code. Plans submitted after the June 10 deadline were judged according to state standards, McKinnon reported.

A marked slow-down in building activity can be expected here, McKinnon predicted.

## ... Speaker

(Continued from Page 1) western University Medical School and interned at St. Lukes Hospital, Chicago. He served his surgical residency at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, from 1938 to 1941.

Continuing his association with Northwestern University Medical School, Dr. Todd served as clinical instructor in surgery from 1939 to 1946, when he moved to Long Beach and set up in private practice.

In 1946, Dr. Todd also became an associate clinical professor of surgery at the University of California, California College of Medicine.

## Governor Signs Skills Center Teaching Bill

Governor Ronald Reagan today signed into law a bill making it possible for experts to teach in regional occupational centers without meeting present certification requirements.

The measure, Assembly Bill 129, was authored by Assemblyman L. E. (Larry) Townsend (D-Torrance) and sponsored by the Southern California Regional Occupational Center in Torrance.

"The problem of recruiting teachers for assignments in a regional occupational center has been most criti-

cal," Townsend said. "The programs in more than 100 course offerings in such centers requires the use of skilled technicians with years of experience in the particular field."

He said the unfortunate aspect of the problem has been the fact that the skilled technicians do not have college degrees, and the certification requirements are such that in order to be issued a clear credential, the applicant must have a degree as well as the trade experience.

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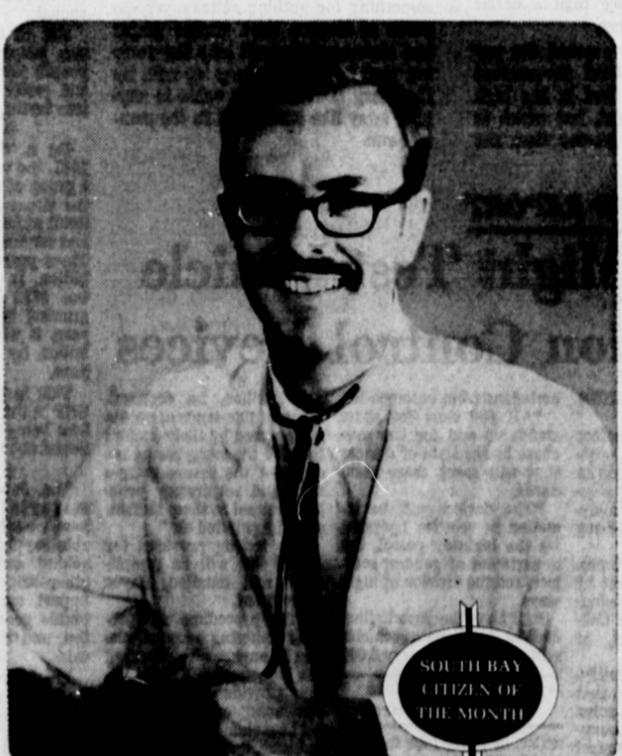
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SOUTH BAY CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

Bridging the gap between life and death... between East and West is a "way of life" for men like Dr. Richard C. Reznick. "We were just doing what had to be done," says this young Hermosa Beach medical doctor and resident of Harbor General Hospital in Torrance. But his record far overshadows his modesty. From January to March of this year his home was a province hospital in Rach Gia in the Viet Nam delta—a volunteer without pay. Mending broken bodies and salvaging shattered spirits under the close and heavy fire of the Viet Cong was his job. During this time he performed over 130 surgical procedures. He, and other members of his medical team, handled more than 400 Vietnamese civilian, military and enemy casualties during the heaviest two weeks of the Tet Offensive.



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